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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by the air forces of the United States, the United Kingdom and France in order to carry out reconnaissance and cause provocation continued over the period from 1 to 15 March 1996, as indicated below.

1. Northern region: 147 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Agrah, Amadiyah and Sarsank.

2. Southern region: 759 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Ushbayjah, Qal'at Salih, Basra, Salman, Amarah, Hamzah, Shanafiyah and Lasaf.

3. Thirteen sorties by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres which violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

I request you to intercede with the above-mentioned States in order that they should cease these activities, which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

These acts continue to terrorize civilians and to cause material damage to personal property and public facilities. The Republic of Iraq reiterates its right to call for payment of legal redress for the damage caused to the Iraqi people.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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